

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 L-01 IGA-01 INR-05

CU-02 /030 W

-----111148 190829Z /10

R 181337Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5729

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 FREETOWN 2211

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SL

SUBJ: PRESIDENT STEVENS AND OICI

REF: STATE 161371

1. THE TWO MEN THE PRESIDENT CONSIDERS UNDESIRABLE ARE JOSEPH KPAKIWA, WHOM THE PRESIDENT WARNED ABOUT LAST FEBRUARY, AND A.E. KOME, WHO WAS INCLUDED IN THE WARNING OF JULY 8. THE PRESIDENT ALLEGED IN FEBRUARY THAT KPAKIWA, WHILE A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, ENGAGED IN FRAUD (SELLING OF SCHOOL FURNITURE, WE HEAR FROM OTHER SOURCES). HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION IS CALLED TO STATE 162948. WE BELIEVE JOSEPH IS RELATED TO THE KPAKIWA'S REQUESTING ASYLUM.

2. WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC DEROGATORY INFORMATION ON KOME. E.K.A. KING, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MOE, REMARKED IN PASSING "ITS A SHAME ABOUT KOME BECAUSE HE WAS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED". FROM LOCAL SOURCES BOYER HAS HEARD THAT KOME'S WIFE WAS A FORMER MISTRESS OF SEVERAL PROMINENT SLPP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PERHAPS ALSO OF SIR ALBERT MARGAI AND THAT LARGE SUMS OF MONEY ALLEGEDLY WERE DIVERTED TO A SCHOOL KOME DIRECTED DURING THE TIME THE SLPP WAS IN POWER. KOME HAS TOLD BOYER THAT HIS WIFE IS AT THE ROOT OF HIS PROBLEMS, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY  
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WHAT SHE IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE DONE.

3. OIC IS FOUNDED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT BY LOCAL INTERESTED CITIZENS. THIS PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO OIC'S OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES. THE OICI-SIERRA LEONE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WAS COMPOSED OF SOME 23 OR 24 LOCAL CITIZENS ELECTED TO THE BOARD BY MEMBERS OF OICI'S LOCAL INTEREST

GROUPS IN FREETOWN AND BO. ONCE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WAS ELECTED OIC-PHILADELPHIA SIGNED A DOCUMENT GRANTING BOARD OF DIRECTORS RIGHT OF CONCURRENCE IN HIRING OF TOP ECHELON LOCAL EMPLOYEES, AMONG OTHER THINGS. BOYER APPARENTLY FELT HE COULD NOT OPPOSE BOARD WHEN THEY INSISTED ON HIRING THESE TWO MEN. SINCE JULY 8 MEETING BOYER HAS CONCLUDED THAT MAIN INTEREST OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS TO PROMOTE SALARIED JOBS FOR THEMSELVES AND FRIENDS WITH OICI. FOR A FURTHER EXPLANATION OF OIC'S PHILOSOPHY AND MODE OF OPERATION I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR AMBASSADOR LINEHAN TO MEET WITH VIVIANNE ANDERSON, AID/W, AND GARY ROBINSON, INTERNATIONAL OIC DIRECTOR, PHILADELPHIA.

4. OICI IS NOT YET IN OPERATION. FIRST GROUP OF STUDENTS IS TO ENTER CLASSES IN MID-AUGUST. FURTHER PROBLEMS FOR OICI ARE BOUND TO ARISE WHEN GRADUATING STUDENTS ARE TO BE PLACED IN JOBS. I AM SKEPTICAL MANY WILL BE PLACED SINCE SIERRA LEONE'S ECONOMY IS STAGNANT AND LIKELY TO GET WORSE, AND HAVE SO STATED TO BOYER, ROBINSON AND REVEREND SULLIVAN. BOYER RECENTLY TOLD ME OICI NOW SHARES MY VIEWS AND HAS DECIDED TO GIVE TOOL KITS TO GRADUATING STUDENTS AND LET THEM SEEK THEIR OWN FORTUNES.

5. AS IS OBVIOUS, ONE MAJOR CAUSE OF OICI'S PROBLEMS IS APC-SLPP POLITICS. THIS IS AGGRAVATED BY FACT OICI IS LOCATED IN BO, WHICH IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE HEARTLAND OF SLPP  
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OPPOSITION. OICI AND EVERYONE IN BO IS WATCHED BY SMALL ARMY OF POLICE, CID, AND INFORMANTS. EVEN INNOCENT ACTS CAN BE MISCONSTRUED IN PRESENT HYPER-POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE. BOYER AND OTHER OICI AMERICAN STAFF ARE JUST BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND IMPACT OF APC-SLPP POLITICAL FEUD ON THEIR ACTIVITIES AS A RESULT OF THE SEVERAL HOURS I'VE SPENT WITH BOYER SINCE JULY 8 ACQUAINTING HIM WITH SIERRA LEONE POLITICS AND REALITIES.

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 L-01 IGA-01 INR-05

CU-02 /030 W

-----110982 190828Z /10

R 181337Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5730

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 FREETOWN 2211

LIMDIS

6. LESS OBVIOUS ASPECT OF OICI PROBLEMS IS INTRA-PARTY STRUGGLE BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT S.I. KOROMA AND PRIME MINISTER C.A. KAMARA-TAYLOR TO SUCCEED STEVENS. I AM REASONABLY SATISFIED THE PRIME MINISTER IS THE INDIVIDUAL WHO TOLD STEVENS OICI IS SUPPORTING THE SLPP AND IS A CIA OPERATION. I ALSO HAVE LEARNED RELIABLY THAT SIMILAR ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE IN RECENT CABINET MEETINGS ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF CRS AND CARE. THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO HAS LOST GROUND TO THE VICE PRESIDENT SINCE THE JANUARY STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, MAY BE TRYING TO GAIN SUPPORT FROM FELLOW MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS BY MAKING SUCH CHARGES. ATTEMPTS BY LOCAL POLITICANS TO USE THE USG AS A SCAPEGOAT IN THEIR POLITICAL MANEUVERING LONG HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS A PITFALL IN DEALING WITH SIERRA LEONE.

7. I AM FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT FOR EVERY MINISTER WHO VOICES OR ACCEPTS THESE CHARGES THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO OTHERS WHO REFUTE OR DO NOT ACCEPT THEM. MORE IMPORTANTLY I DO NOT BELIEVE STEVENS ACCEPTS THEM. OTHERWISE I AM CERTAIN OICI, CRS, AND CARE WOULD BE ON THEIR WAY OUT OF SIERRA LEONE. NEVERTHELESS, THE DANGER EXISTS THAT ILL-CONSIDERED ACTIONS SUCH AS HIRING KPAKIWA AND KOME COULD BE WOVEN INTO A STORY THAT WOULD CONVINCE THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET THAT A FACTUAL BASIS EXISTS FOR SUCH ALLEGATIONS. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE NEITHER STEVENS, KOROMA NOR KAMARA-TAYLOR ARE TERRIBLY CONFIDENTIAL

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PROFOUND MEN AND THE EXPERIENCE OF 1971 CANNOT BE IGNORED.

8. STEVENS DID NOT CONVENE THE SECOND MEETING ON OICI LAST WEEK. I HOPE THIS MEANS HE IS SATISFIED HIS CONCERNS HAVE BEEN MET.  
NORTH

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NNN



## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009